

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 3145

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, BR
SUBJ: VISIT OF ICFTU AND ORIT OFFICIALS TO CHILE

REF: SANTIAGO 2639 (NOTAL)

FOLLOWING CABLE PREAPARED BY AMCONSUL SAO PAULO:

SUMMARY: ICFTU LATIN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE FRISO IS AWARE
OF DESIRABILITY OF SUPPORTING CHILEAN "GROUP OF TEN" (DINAMICOS)
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AGAINST LEFTIST ELEMENTS IN LABOR MOVEMENT. EUROPEAN ICFTU
AFFILIATES' EMPHASIS ON "LABOR UNITY", HOWEVER, LIMITS FRISO'S
ACTIONS. HE IS CONCERNED THAT TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF
FORMATION OF NEW INDEPENDENT LABOR CONFEDERATION IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING ICFU VISIT WILL COMPLICATE PROCESS OF OBTAINING FURTHER
SUPPORT FOR NEW CHILEAN CONFEDERATION FROM ICFTU AFFILIATES.
END SUMMARY.

1. ENZO FRISO, LATIN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) AND JUAN JOSE DEL PINO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LATIN AMERICAN REGAIONAL ORGANIZATION (ORIT) ARRIVED SAO PAULO APRIL 13 BEGINNING A WEEK-LONG VISIT TO BRAZIL.

2. FURTHER DEVEOPMENTS ON CHILE VISIT: A NEWS REPORT OF APRIL 14 OF FORMATION OF NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT WORKERS IN CHILE CAUSED DISMAY TO FRISO. THE ICFTU OFFICIAL WAS CONCERNED, NOT BY FACT THAT AN INDEPENDENT CONFEDERATION BEING FORMED, BUT BY TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS VISIT.

3. BACKGROUND OF ICFTU POLICY: AS FRISO EXPLAINED TO AIFLD COUNTRY PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND TO LABATT, HE KEENLY AWARE OF POLITICAL SITUATION WITHIN CHILEAN LABOR CONFEDERATION (CUTCH) AND TAKES PERSONAL CREDIT FOR GETTING SOME ICFTU HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE CHANNELED TO GROUPS OUTSIDE OF CUTCH. LEADING EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE ICFTU, HOWEVER, SUCH AS THE SCANDINAVIANS, GERMANS, BRITISH, AND DUTCH ARE STRONGLY COMMITTED TO IDEA OF "LABOR UNITY" AND ACQUIESCED IN THIS ONLY IF AID WOULD NOT BE SEEN AS ENCOURAGING A DIVISION OF THE CHILEAN LABOR MOVEMENT. FRISO SAID HE "DELIVERED SUPPORT" TO "GROUP OF TEN" BUT DID NOT INDICATE ANY POSITION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THEY SHOULD FORM AN INDEPENDENT CONFEDERATION.

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4. FRISO'S CONCERNS: FRISO FEARS THAT THE TIMING OF THE CHILEAN ANNOUNCEMENT MAKES IT APPEAR HE ENCOURAGED TH FORMATION OF THE INDEPENDENT CONFEDERATION CONTRARY TO THE EUROPEAN AFFILIATES' WISHES THIS MAY MAKE EFFORTS TO SUPPORT FOR THE "INDEPENDENTS" MORE DIFFICULT IN THE FUTURE. EVIDENCE OF EXTENT OF HIS CONCERN WAS A CABLE COSTING 108 DOLLARS HE DISPATCHED TO ICFTU APRIL 14 TO EXPLAIN AND CLARIFY DEVEOLPMXNTS.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS FROM FRISO'S REACTION TO DEVELOPMENTS THAT HIS COMMENTS IN SANTIAGO FAVORING CONTACT BETWEEN THE "GROUP OF TEN" AND THE LEFT WERE AN EFFORT TO APPEASE THE EUROPEAN ICFTU AFFILIATES AT THE SAME TIME THAT HE DELIVERED SUPPORT DIRECTLY TO THE "DINAMICOS".

JOHNSON

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